AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) An information processing device, comprising:

a storage section;

a reception section capable of receiving data transmitted to a specific address that has been predetermined;

a registration processing section for adding and registering the data received by the reception section into the storage section;

a data processing section for processing the data stored in the storage section; and

a status change processing section for controlling the registration processing section and the data processing section and for switching between (i) an active status which allows additional registration of the data transmitted to the specific address and processing of the data and (ii) a non-active status other than the active status,

wherein the status change processing section instructs one or more other information processing devices to change into the active status when an amount of unprocessed data registered in the storage section exceeds a predetermined threshold value, and the status change processing section changes the information processing device into the non-active status and causes the data processing section to process the unprocessed data.

2. (currently amended) The information processing device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising: ~~comprising~~

a status information storage section for storing status information about one or more statuses of said other information processing devices,

wherein the status change processing section determines, out of said other information processing devices, an information processing device which is to be changed from the non-active status into the active status, based on the status information.

3. (currently amended) The information processing device ~~processing section~~ as set forth in claim 1, further comprising: ~~comprising:~~

a calculation processing section for calculating, based on the unprocessed data stored in the storage section, a throughput of the unprocessed data; and

a comparison processing section for comparing the throughput with a predetermined threshold value,

wherein the status change processing section determines whether or not to change the information processing device into the non-active status, based on a result of comparison performed by the comparison processing section.

4. (original) The information processing device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the non-active status includes a standby status in which the information processing device changes into the active status based on an instruction to change into the active status, said instruction being transmitted from said other information device, and

the status change processing section controls the registration processing section so that the registration processing section additionally register the data transmitted to the specific address when it is determined that the information processing device is in the standby status, and the status change processing section processes the data having been additionally registered when

it is determined that said other information processing device in the active status is not capable of processing the data.

5. (original) The information processing device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the non-active status includes (i) an off status which does not allow additional registration of data transmitted to the specific address and processing of the data and (ii) a busy status which allows the data processing section to process unprocessed data, and

the status change processing section changes the status of the information processing device into the off status and controls the data processing section so that the data processing section does not operate when the status change processing section determines that processing of the unprocessed data is completed after changing into the busy status.

6. (original) The information processing device as set forth in claim 1, wherein: when the registration processing section determines that received data has been transmitted to the specific address, the registration processing section informs, to a device from which the data has been transmitted, (i) reception of the data and (ii) a particular address of the information processing device.

7. (currently amended) An information processing program, stored in a computer-readable medium, for operating the information processing device as set forth in claim 1, said information processing program causing a computer to function as each of the processing sections.

8. (canceled)

9. (original) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

the image processing device as set forth in claim 1; and

an image forming section for forming an image based on data processed by the information processing device.

10. (original) The image forming apparatus as set forth in claim 9, wherein

the non-active status includes a standby status prior to an active status, and

when the image forming apparatus is in the standby status, the status change processing section controls the image forming section so that the image forming section is in operating condition.

Claims 11-30 (canceled)